American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Eleanor Wilson Papers, 1925-1951

Folder Description:

Outgoing Correspondence to "Dear Folks,"
January 8, 1930 – September 1, 1936

Box Number:

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P.T.U. Japan

#167

January 8, 1930

Dear Folks:

Now for an hour's chat with you folks. There is a good boat out tomorrow and I'm eager to get this off on that boat so you will get it as soon as possible. Perhaps the thing which will interest you most is that the 50th anniversary celebration is to be held in June instead of in October which means that I'll be able to leave Japan by the middle of July instead of by the middle of October. That will mean that I'll be back in the U.S.A. before Thanksgiving probably. School is out in June but I've been put in charge of one of the camps this summer and that wont be over before the first week in July and then I must pack so I'll not plan to sail before the middle of July.

On the night of the 26th Lucy Titcomb and I set sail at eleven o'clock for Kyushu. We had a very fine trip down inspite of the rain. Lucy has been in Japan only a little over a year so she does not speak much in Japanese -- she is a term teacher and so is not given time for language study. One always finds students who wish to try out their english and we had many different ones talking to us for a few minutes at a time. One fellow was on his way home for his Christmas vacation and he said he didn't know whether or not he would be able to return for he was suffering from nervous prostitution! Another man spoke of the fine construction of the Koreans! I know I make many, many funny mistakes in Japanese too but unfortunately I don't know it! "It" refers to the mistakes. Just as I didn't correct those boys, so also no one corrects my Japanese! We spent the following night in Beppu but as it rained the next day we couldn't go around to see the sights and we had to go on to Miyazaki so I could be there for Sunday. Unfortunately it was the Sunday between Christmas and New Years and the audience is always slim. I realized that but the Warrens I think felt badly to have only 18 instead of the usual 60 people out to the morning service. Also there was no Sunday School that day! At the evening service there were only 6 of us: the pastor, the church worker, the sexton, a boy who had said he wanted to see me and I had told him to see me at church that evening, one young woman and myself! Sunday afternoon I had a good long talk with our worker and that was worth the trip. I found her much happier and more content than I had been given to understand was the case. Also I was able to give her a few hints which I hope will make things easier for her.

Monday morning we started off by auto to visit some dolmens. Some of them have been opened and many fine treasures taken out and sent to museums but two big ones have not been touched because they are believed to be those of an ancient Emperor and Empress. Some day I expect they will be opened. In the afternoon we went to Aoshima (means green island) which is a tiny island just off the main island. When the tide is in one must walk out to it over a bridge but when the tide is out one can walk from the main island out to Aoshima without using the bridge. On this little island there are many tropical plants not found anywhere else in Japan! The rock formation is also very interesting.

We took a 4:20 train out of Miyazaki and stopped at a little country place for over night so as to enable us to travel the rest of the way by daylight. We had a comfortable room in an inn near the station and got an early train the next morning. The scenery was well worth the wait. For a long time we were going in and out of tunnels and as we came out we'd get a glimpse of the sea and of Sakurajima which is an island in Kagoshima Bay. Upon arriving in Kagoshima (the largest southern city in Kyushu) we went to the home of a missionary for we had promised we would stay there if she were home but she was in Tokyo so we went to a lovely little inn and put our baggage down, then we started off for Sakurajima. We took a little motor boat over to the island and saw the lava beds -- the result of an eruption a few years ago. We walked around a little and then took a mail boat on to the end of the island and back to Kagoshima. As soon as we got back we jumped onto a bus and started out to Taniyama

where Satsuma ware is made. Lucy had never seen a potter's wheel and I was eager for her to see one. We found that no work was being done for it was the day before New Year's and all the workers had been allowed to go home at noon. However the man who runs the place lives right there and he insisted upon our going into the show room and looking around. I should have said show rooms for there were several of them. There happened to be a retired Navy officer visiting there and he spoke English very well indeed and was delighted to have an opportunity of using his English. He was most gentlemanly and insisted upon our seeing many lovely things. Mr. Ariyama (the head man) was so delighted with our pleasure that he gave us a present to take home! When I told him that I was disappointed to think my friend would not be able to see a potter's wheel, he asked one of his sons if he'd make something for us and so he made two things and Lucy had a chance to see the wheel worked! The Navy man went back as far as Kagoshima with us and as it was already past six o'clock we hurried back to the inn for we wanted to eat supper and get out onto the gay streets again! We rushed into the inn with the usual salutation meaning "We are back again" and took off our shoes only to find strange faces greeting us and one man asked if it was our first time there! Lo and behold we were in the wrong inn! The outside was exactly like ours. Well Lucy burst right out laughing and as soon as I apologized I burst out too! The "burst out" means in laughter and also out of the inn! Our inn was two doors further down the street! We had a good supper and as we ate it Lucy said we'd have a nice bill the next day with such a feed. She even said if she thought we wouldn't have to pay for what we didn't eat she wouldn't eat it all but knowing we must pay for it we devoured the whole dinner much to the satisfaction of the maid! We paraded the streets until nine o'clock and then went back and to bed. New Year's morning dawned bright and beautiful - a perfect day. The poor maid didn't know what to make of it when I called out "Shin nen omedito" (new year congratulations) as soon as she opened the door! The poor souls thought we didn't like to sit on the floor so they had brought in a table and chairs for us and our New Year's breakfast was soon placed upon the table. Such a sight! There was soup, beans, fish paste, several things I didn't know, roe, and a whole lobster! Lucy laughed and said again that we'd pay for it! Well after we had made way with as much as we could, in came the maids with our regular breakfast and they looked aghast when they saw us making way with the other food! Apparently that was to look at! Wine was also brought in and the maid tried to urge us to take just a little but when we refused she looked as if an idea had dawned upon her and she said, "Oh aren't you allowed to drink?" We left our regular breakfast of two eggs, soup, rice, etc. etc. untouched. As it was New Year's and as I wanted to call on the minister we went first to his house but he was out; however his wife was there and she proved to be the daughter of a man we know here in Kobe! We then went to the city celebration and heard the mayor thanking the people for their support during the past year and asking for their continued interest, also he urged them to give thanks for their good fortune and to pray for mercy during the coming year. At this he turned around (they were all in front of a temple) and bowed in prayer and this mass of people also bowed. There was perfect silence for a couple of minutes and then he turned and thanked the people. After that 3 banzais were shouted for the Emperor and those who wished had a luncheon of rice cakes and fruit. We climbed the mountain and went to another famous temple and then took the train for Kumamoto but we stopped a few miles south of Kumamoto for the night so as not to have to spend the night with friends and be a bother to them. We were in the funniest little inn you can imagine. Oh, I mean to say that our hotel bill at the other place for supper, night and breakfast was $1.50 per plus tips! In other words for the two of us including tips we paid $4.00! We know we had extra because of its being New Years.

To be continued

Much love,
Elsie

a copy goes to S.S.

To continue no copy has gone to -J- E.B. or the Clarks and this.

J.W. J.W.H. E.B.W.

We reached Kumamoto early the next day and our friend was at the station to meet us. It was raining so she took us right to the other station where we checked our baggage and then we went to her house for luncheon. We visited for an hour, went out to call on a friend and to see the park, back for lunch, and then we started off to see the leper hospital which is just outside the city. It is in a delightful location, looking across the plain and over to the mountains beyond. We saw the beautiful but simple chapel - we were taken in where the minister goes and not allowed to go in where the patients go. There is one large vault where the ashes of former patients are kept and out from that vault the garden is fixed to look like rays of light. It is a lovely idea and the cemetery is not the least bit gloomy, indeed it is a beautiful place. After that we visited a new Luthern school for girls and the foreign teachers at that school insisted upon giving us supper for they said we would not be able to get any on the train or at the little village where we planned to stay. It was a delicious meal and a foreign meal didn't go amiss after living on Japanese food morning, noon and night for several days. By taking a taxi we made our train in good time and poor Lucy was dead tired by the time we go onto the train. She leaned back and gave a sigh at which I laughed and as I was pepped up to the 100 degree I began talking to the school boys in the seats opposite us. I judged that they had never talked with a foreigner so I said I'd talk to them in English and see how much they could understand. Every one in the car had a grand time for a half hour after which the boys got off, then a man came up and asked me where I was going and where my husband was -- he would hardly believe that I had no husband -- then he asked how old I was and I told him to give a guess. He said he had no idea, he couldn't guess but I said that unless he guessed I wouldn't tell him at which another man in the car laughed and the fellow gave a guess! By the time we were drawing near our station we were the only people left in the car and as it was raining hard and we knew we would be held up a day we decided to go on to the next village where the guide book (that guide book the women of Old Colony Branch gave me has been a good companion!) said there was a passable inn. We got the conductor to fix up our tickets and when we got off at Miyaji I asked the station master to direct us to a good inn. He turned us over to the bus man and we were joggled along over rough roads for five or ten minutes and finally stopped at a fine looking inn. We were the only guests and we had a grand quiet room at the back of the inn and on the 2nd floor. It was well after nine o'clock by the time we got there so we told the maid not to disturb us for breakfast the next morning and we stayed abed until almost eleven o'clock! It was great to have that one day of rest. It wasn't raining but it was cloudy so we couldn't climb Mt.Aso that day. Upon getting up we went out for a short walk around the village and when we came back luncheon was ready. The maid said they had a reservoir and water works and as there were faucets I judged she was correct but I couldn't understand how they had water works up in the crater, for Miyaji is in the outer crater of Mt.Aso. Come to find out there was an artesian well which supplied a flowing stream of water! As Lucy looked out the window she said, "What is that? A church?" It looked like a church so I asked the maid and she said it was. She knew nothing about the denomination and nothing about the pastor so after luncheon we set out to follow the steeple! We walked in the general direction of the steeple but we couldn't find it so we went up onto a little hill to see a school and there a little girl asked us if we were Sunday school teachers! We knew by that that some foreigner had been teaching Sunday school in that neighborhood! We then spotted the steeple off the main road and we started for it again! We had to cross a little old bridge and go in back toward the rice fields. Why anyone ever built a church in such an out-of-the-way place we didn't know. We saw a man near the church and asked him what denomination it was and who the pastor was but we got nothing from him! We climbed the steps to the church and saw that the carpenters were still on the job but it was a holiday so they weren't working that day. Someone seemed to be living in the church but no one was home and we went to the next door to inquire. That woman knew that it was an Episcopalian church and that the

pastor was a woman -- a foreigner! To think of a foreign woman pastor in that little tiny village way off from everywhere! The woman was out so we started back to the hotel taking the path along the ricefields instead of going back to the main street. When we struck the main street we looked toward the church and saw a woman walking fast in that direction. We concluded it was a foreigner's walk and we chased after her! She turned in over the little bridge and we concluded that she was the woman we wanted to see! We got back to the church before she had gone upstairs and she was surprised to see us. She proved to be an English woman who had been working in that little village for three years. Up until a week before she had lived in a little Japanese house but her house was wanted for someone else and so she had moved into the apartment in the church building. And there is a story about that building which explains it's being off the beaten track! It was a store house for wine and had been for sale for years but noone seemed to want it. One day this little 60 year old missionary heard someone say that it wasn't fit for anything except a theatre and she immediately thought that if it was suitable for a theatre it was suitable for a church so we made inquiry, asked her bishop if she might buy it, didn't get any encouragement, said she'd buy it with her own money, went to inquire about the price, learned that she could have it for the taxes of the previous year and so she bought that old but wellbuilt wine store house! It was too wide for a small church so she had it cut in two and one side has been made into a kindergarten room, leaving the other side large enough for a good-sized little auditorium. She had it all fixed up just as neatly as possible and there was really a lot of atmosphere about the little church. She took us up into the steeple so we could get the view and we then saw the secret of the steeple clock. It was nothing but a cheap alarm clock. The carpenter had made a large face, fixed large hands for the face and thus there was a town clock all made! We then went down stairs and learned that altho height was wanted for the auditorium it wasn't wanted for the kindergarten and so a 2nd floor was built over the kindergarten room! In back is a dining room and kitchen and passing thru the dining room we were lead up to the 2nd floor where a friend was awaiting us! In a few minutes a little table was laid and there were the four of us sipping tea and eating cake in a little parlor, or sitting room, as cosy as ever you please. It was all just like a little story! The Sunday before was the first Sunday for services in the little church and there were 30 present. There are over a hundred children in the S.S. The little lady has worked in Japan for 35 years and seems to love her life in the country. We returned to the inn quite thrilled with the whole thing! We had an early supper and got to bed early leaving the maid with instructions to waken us at 6:45 if the weather was fair. We were wakened per schedule and when I said, "Is it a fine day?" the answer came back that she didn't know but it wasn't raining! I jumped up and looked out only to see Mt. Aso girdled with a white cloud but the top and the bottom showed up to perfection. We got dressed, said we didn't need any breakfast, and got a bus for the station from which we returned a few miles to Boju. We stocked up on sweet chocolate, hired a guide and started to climb at 8:20. The people said it would take us 5 hours to make the round trip so we knew we could make the 2:14 train out of the place. The day was crisp, our guide congenial and the climb easy. The outer crater is the largest in the world and the inner crater is noted for its actions! It has erupted off and on every since the beginning of Japanese history. In October 1928 it threw up badly. The steam was pouring out at a great rate. It was thrilling to stand on the edge of the crater way up above the villages and look down into the crater. Once while we were walking on the top the wind came just right and we were enveloped in such a dense cloud of sulphur smelling vapor as not to be able to see anything. We stood perfectly still and it was over with shortly. We walked the full length of the crater and over to where we could see the villages on the other side, then we walked back to Boju and found we had done the whole thing in 5 hours and had an hour to wait for the train. It was a wonderful climax to our trip! That night

we took the boat from Beppu back to Kobe! This is just a bare outline of our trip but to write more would be tiresome! -- not the writing of it but the reading of it!

Getting back 3 days before school began I thought I'd have lots of time for study but one might almost as well make up one's mind that study is impossible during vacations! I settled down early Monday morning but hadn't read one chapter when company came and she stayed until noon. There were 7 guests to luncheon (I'm housekeeper this month!), I went to Cooke & Son's right after luncheon to inquire about boats home, came back and company came for supper and to spend the night. I was delighted to see her and we had a fine visit. She left early the next morning but company had come home with Edith the night before she was here with us another day and night. That day our cook was coming down with what seemed to be a bad cold so I dosed her up with castor oil, put her to bed and took charge in the kitchen myself. I gave her only hot liquids for luncheon and by night she was ready for her dinner! The next morning she was on the job all smiles. I had her drinking plenty of hot water for a few days and apparently she is over her troubles for this time. I expect she had too much to eat for New Year's and got too tired -- she had gone home for a couple of days. That day (Wednesday) school began and we had prayers (station meeting) here with me as leader. That night we had a union prayer meeting at Kobe Church and after that I had a call to make so it was past ten before I got home! Thursday I had my frist cooking class for this term. I have cooking for 2 periods Thursday afternoon and then gym. for one period so the girls will have enough of me that day! I have the 1st year girls in Bible in the morning and a faculty meeting so Thursdays are to be pretty well filled up!

Friday evening I skipped prayer meeting to go to Kobe College to a birthday party and the following evening all the teachers (foreign) from K.C., came over here for a baked bean supper! Saturday it started to spit snow and was a cold disagreeable day. I had a Japaneselesson for 2 hours in the afternoon, then a caller and then I had to go to a piano recital from which I returned at 6:30 just in time to make the desert for a 7 o'clock supper! Today we wakened to a white world -- it was so pretty -- but it soon melted. Mrs. Stewart was here for breakfast and now she has started for America. Then I went to church after which there was a short funeral service for one of the aged members who died a few days ago. As I am housekeeper, I got supper and went to the station to see one of my friends off for Tokyo and now it is ten o'clock and I must go to bed.

This morning three packages from the U.S.A. arrived: The Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge from Theodore and Faith which not only I but the rest of this household were glad to have, hankies from the St.Johnsbury children and some from Freda Harris and a box of delicious candies (chocolates) from Gertrude Mealy. There was no duty to pay on anything. The chocolates went right to the spot with the result that I've eaten too many of them. All the others politely took two a piece -- they are more temperate that I!

Faith, when I have time I'll write you in detail about those books but I must tell you now how much they were appreciated. My first thought was that I'd give them to a children's home here in Kobe but when I saw how nicely they were made I felt better use could be made of them by giving them to Mrs. Akana for use in our kindergarten here in Kobe. Mrs. Akana was so thrilled with them she wept! She showed them to the teachers who were equally thrilled and each class is to make up a similar book as you suggested but when they will be done is another question for pictures suitable for such a book are hard to get. So far only about 10 pictures have been collected! I thank you many, many times and so do those who are benefiting by them. Mrs. Akana said she'd write to you but she is a very busy woman and I told her I'd do the honors!

Love,

Elma

thanks for Theo's invitation for next X mas. If all goes well I expect I'll visit Sc. Johnsbury soon after landing & then go to Canton in time for Jane's birthday & stay until after Christmas if that is agreeable to every one concerned!

59 NAKAYAMATE DORI, 6 CHOME
KOBE, JAPAN

#170 Feb. 2, 1930

Dear Folks:

Whether this is 169 or 170 I don't know as I am all off count! I sent you a card by the last boat so you wouldn't worry about me and this won't be much of a letter but I've heard from the Board about my travel money and I know you will all rejoice with me in it's contents. "We do feel that second or third class on the trans-Atlantic and second class through the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean is comparable to the first class on the Pacific and hence no adjustment will be necessary in case you use these classes of travel. - - - - I have figured what would be the cost of the direct trip through to Boston. I am assuming that this place is your furlough destination and in case it is not we can make later adjustment. - - - - Total $480."

Of course I would not consider traveling anything other than second from here to the Atlantic, so I am fixed as far as money goes and I was glad to see that the Board considers 2nd on the Mediterranean O.K. All my friends who have gone home via the Ports have gone thru Europe but as far as Port Said they have found 2nd perfectly O.K.

After church today I went to the minister's house with 14 girls for a little meeting. The minister had asked me to come and to be prepared to say something but after he had finished talking I felt the girls needed some relaxation for he talked 30 minutes and it was nearly two and the girls had had nothing to eat so I told him that I guessed there was no need of my talking to them! He is a dear and everyone likes him but he began by saying that he didn't have anything to say but would say a few remarks! I had a good mind to whisper to him that if he didn't have anything to say it was better to be silent but I didn't! He wanted me to preach at church this evening but he didn't tell me until Friday evening so I told him I couldn't but I've promised to do it something! It is quite a different thing to get up and preach in a Kobe church than in a little city church like Matsuyama.

A few days ago I had another box from Mrs. Morrill of Somerset%. It contained soap, which is always welcome (small size packages), dishtowels of which we are always in need, hankies, pictures, and three of the cunningest little dolls you ever saw. I have the prettiest one perched up on my bookcase and the next prettiest Mrs. Akana asked for for her kindergarten and the third I am waiting to take to the orphanage for the kiddies there would love it.

While traveling on street cars and waiting for people and sometimes at night before going to bed, I've been reading Splendor of God by Morrow. It certainly is a well written book and I've enjoyed it greatly.

A Mr. Masazaki of my church is being sent by his firm to America on business. He is a fine young man and I told him if he went to New York or Boston to look up E.B. and Perrin provided he had time. His headquarters will be in Pittsburg. I'd like for him to meet some folks other than business people if possible. The Japanese are apt to idealize the Americans and when they get to America and meet some types they are terribly disappointed.

With much love,

Elma

Copy sent D. Ellis.

#171

59 Nakayamate Dori, 6 Chome, Kobe, Japan
February 16, 1930.

Dear Folks:

C.T.W.
E.B.W.
Jan. '30

I last wrote to you on the 2nd I think.

One morning I invited the seniors in here to have breakfast with me for that morning at the dormitory they were to have only two slices of toast and a cup of horrid coffee. Twice a week the matron gives them a "foreign" breakfast and that is what it consists of! I have been trying to screw up my courage to suggest a few things in the line of food for the girls but as yet I haven't had the courage to do it. The woman has been here ten years and is a lovely woman but just doesn't seem to know how to provide for the girls bodies apparently. Edith and I started eating our noon meals at the dormitory with the girls last fall but Edith has dropped by the wayside -- she can't stand it but I find it a quite natural way for chumming with the girls and also it gives me an opportunity for hearing a lot of things the girls are thinking about. But to go back to the breakfast with the seniors. The reason I invited them was that they were to spend the day in Osaka visiting the various social service plants and I had said I'd go with them for the boys from Doshisha were also to be in the party and my girls felt rather bashful altho there was no need for such feelings. Well, we were just going to sit down when the matron came rushing in to say that she had made a mistake and that the trip was the following day! The poor girls were about to go back to the dormitory for breakfast but I kept them here and they had a grand time. The following day I couldn't go with them for I had four periods of teaching that day and it is hard to rearrange the schedule. I should have enjoyed seeing the places but I feel very strongly that we ought to keep our schedule as nearly as possible. In a small school it is so easy to be careless about such things.

Last Sunday our new pastor was installed. The meeting lasted from 2-4:45. It was a very fine meeting and the church was well filled.

One day the acting head of the Baptist Training School for Women Christian Workers came over for dinner and to discuss the school situations etc. We decided between us that we wouldn't have a camp this summer for our girls. She is planning to take her girls off on an evangelistic trip and it is something I had hoped to do with our girls. I've asked permission of our principal and he is in hearty accord, so if all goes well I'll take our girls off on a regular evangelistic trip instead of taking them to camp. I don't know what the camp committee will say but we meet next month and then I tell them what I've decided! They had me assigned as leader for that camp this summer!

The 11th was a holiday so Lilian Stewart and I took our lunch and went hiking. We had a grand time climbing over hills which I had seen from the cars but which I had never explored before. We got started up the main road on one mountain and then it began to go down so we decided we had lost the proper path but the top didn't look very far and up we decided to go -- right up the side of the mountain without any path! We got started and it was so steep I didn't dare look back. I had taken my coat off as it was hot work climbing so I threw my coat as far up as I could then I climbed to it, threw it again and that is the way I climbed. When I reached a place that was a little level, I stopped and yelled to Lilian whom I couldn't see it was so steep. I heard no reply and was getting worried about her when suddenly her head came into view. She hadn't heard me yell and she had been yelling to me to see if I was O.K. but I hadn't heard a sound! We finally reached the top which was much further off than we had thought! The view from the top was well worth the climb. Boats use that mountain as a landmark.

we asked a man if we could get from that mountain across to one of the other mountains without going way down and he said we could so we started off down to the place he said to branch off. The frost had melted and as we went down the path the mud stuck to our shoes and we slipped and slid but finally we got down to the place where we had turned off the road and started to climb up the side of the mountain! We hiked around for three hours after luncheon and some of the time it was snowing so hard we could hardly see. When we reached the top of one mountain the snow had covered up the path so we could not tell where it was and we had to turn back and go back the same way we went up. I was warmly clothed but I was afraid Lilian would catch cold. She was chilled to the bone but she didn't catch cold. She sat in a hot bath for about half an hour upon our return. When we got back we found Mrs. Akana sick, so before taking off my coat I called a doctor. He decided it was indigestion and said for her to stay abed a couple of days which she did and she is O.K. again now.

Edith's birthday was the 12th and we celebrated by taking her to a Chinese restaurant for supper. We had a delicious dinner and two friends of hers whom we invited to go with us seemed to enjoy it as much as we did.

Miss MacCausland wants to have a year off for language study so a member of the Christian Mission, which has now joined with us, is to take her place as teacher at Kobe College. She came down on Thursday to give us the once over and we had her in for tea that afternoon. Two other girls called that afternoon so it gave Miss Drew a chance to meet them. Miss Drew has been living with two elderly people and I guess she found us rather lively. In cooking class that afternoon we had made doughnuts and one of our callers said, "Well I'm glad to know what you teach, I've often wondered." My reply was that that was one of the things I teach. That very day I had had Bible, cooking, first-aid, and gym.! The demonstration doll Mrs. Morrill gave me had been bathed and properly dressed. The girls were wild over the doll and one of the girls who is leaving us at the end of this term to be married had her eyes and ears open to hear everything I had to say!

Yesterday afternoon one of the young men from the church called and was here for two hours. He seemed to have a grand time. He is a chemist working in the laboratory of a German firm here in Kobe. He works on dyestuffs. All the chemists use A.A.Noyes' book and when I told him that I knew Dr. Noyes and that I had met some of the Japanese men who had worked with Dr. Noyes when he was at M.I.T. he decided I knew "many" distinguished people!

The rest of my time has been spent as usual in teaching and studying. There have been the regular prayer meetings etc. My teachers at the Blind School come regularly to the Bible class I have for them. This past week as Tuesday was a holiday I suggested that we have no lesson and one of them spoke up and asked the principal if we couldn't have the class someother day so I went out Friday afternoon instead of on Tuesday. I enjoy that class immensely.

This week is to be a hectic one. The 15 club meets here on Tuesday evening and the woman's meeting on Wednesday and I am supposed to speak to the women at their meeting. If I don't have any interruptions tomorrow morning I ought to be able to get my work for the week pretty well along but one can never tell. I sometimes tell the maid not to let anyone in to see me but mission people often don't ring but come right in and walk up to my room and then there is no escaping them!

I've just heard that one of my dear friends, Mary Finch, expects to go home via the ports this summer and I'm hoping to be able to go at the same time but I haven't heard how early she is starting. Another friend has asked me to consider going home with her but she plans to start about the 10th and I don't see how I can get off before the 15th because I plan to do my packing after school closes.

With love,
Eleanor

P.T.W. 1930 4

#172 Feb. 24, 1930

Dear Folks:

This wont be a long letter, just to tell you the latest news which you may have heard already from Perrin. As I can get to Port Said by Sept. 1st, Perrin says we can take in the Passion Play on Sept. 28th. Isn't that wonderful? It is fine for me to have him attend to tickets etc. for altho it can be done here it is a nusiance! I expect we will get home by the first of November but Perrin will let me know later our detailed itinerary.

This past Tuesday evening we entertained the XV club so that is over with for this year! I guess I wrote you that we inherited membership in that club with this house! Then Wednesday afternoon the women of the Hyogo church met here. We had a fine meeting and the ladies all seemed to enjoy themselves. I lead the meeting and gave a five-minute talk but the minister gave the main talk. I felt that so long as he was going to talk there was no need of my saying anything but my name was printed on the church bulletin as giving a talk so it was up to me to do so!

Saturday afternoon the girls from this ~~church~~ school went to the Old Folks' Home to sing and as I couldn't go I sent them a doll which Mrs. Morrill had sent to me. I had planned on giving it to the orphanage but I decided as it was breakable it was wiser to send it to grown-ups. Edith said the little ladies were tickled to pieces with her. As Edith passed by the room to come home she saw one of the little ladies who is blind feeling the doll all over and talking baby talk to her!

I had planned to get this letter off on the boat which sailed today but yesterday a forlorn little soul asked me to go walking with her so I went and we were gone 3 hours which meant it was too late to get the letters off.

The other day I took my blue coat which I bought at Jordan's before I came out here to the tailor's and he said he could turn it and make it as good as new. I needed a new lining too but I am having it lined ~~1~~/ only half way down. I don't know whether I was foolish or not not to have the lining all the way down but it is too late to cry over spilled milk now! I am planning to travel home with only one suitcase and a small bag. People ask me if I have begun to get my clothes ready for the trip and they are surprised when I tell them that I don't plan to get anything! I count on a couple of voile dresses and a couple of silk ones being enough. I'd prefer to use my old ones and then get new ones which will be in style when I get home. If I look a fright on the way home, people will excuse me. Can't you hear people saying, "No, she isn't crazy she is just a missionary returning on furlough."

Well I'll stop this nonsense and mail it so it will go out on the next boat which sails in a couple of days but it is a slower boat. Please excuse the mistakes.

With love,

A copy goes to E.B. and Ethel Elean

P.S. Elean — my dear — a paper which states that Elean Wilson has completed satisfactorily her 3rd year work of language study!

#173

59 Nakayamate Dori, 6 Chome, Kobe,
Mar. 9, 1930.

Dear Folks:

I last wrote to you on Feb. 24th. That evening I had just gotten settled down with my teacher to prepare for chapel the following day when callers started and it was nearly ten o'clock before my teacher left. One girl came to say she is to be married on the 23rd and therefore was leaving school the following day! Another girl came to say there would be a farewell party for that girl the following evening and wanted suggestions for entertainment and what the other girl wanted I don't remember! The following day was already filled up with a birthday party and supper for Paul but we had to make our excuses to him for the party at school came from 5-7! After the party Edith had to practise with another girl for a performance the following day but I went to the station with the girls and said our last farewells. The Principal was to give the farewell address at the school party, not only to Shigata San who is to be married but also to two girls who go next month for 4 months of practical work. When the man was late and it came time for the speech the leader called on me! Edith said afterwards she would not have done it on the spur of the moment but I felt it was too bad not to have some remarks so I stumbled thru trusting I'd be given words to say that would be of real worth to the girls.

On the 27th our cook's sister's husband died and they telegraphed for her. She asked if she might go for a couple of days and of course we let her off. Mrs. Akana was housekeeper in February but as we were having two guests Friday evening she asked me to get dinner. She doesn't know much about cooking, or at least she thinks she doesn't! Our 2nd girl is a whiz and we got thru in easy shape. Saturday, the 1st of March a friend came for the weekend and we did much of our visiting in the kitchen! Sunday I took her to church with me but as the minister preached a terribly long sermon and then there was baptism and communion service, we left early! He preached for an hour today!!

As Edith and I had invited our Kobe Alumnae to meet here on Monday I baked nutbread and cake Sunday afternoon. I decided I was a Martha that day and not a Mary! The Bennetts (3 of them) were here to supper but Edith and Mrs. Akana got supper and I sent the table etc.

Monday evening Lilian Stewart and I had a lesson in Obonseki which I will hope to explain when I reach home! In the afternoon our alumnae came and they had such a good time I thought they wouldn't leave in time for supper! They loved the nutbread sandwiches.

Tuesday afternoon there was a farewell for the Pedleys at which I assisted. It meant that I had to rearrange my Japanese lesson but I was glad to do that. It was a lovely little reception but Dr. Pedley was pretty well tired out after it was over. It is hard to say good-bye to people with whom one has worked for over 40 years. Edith Curtis came home for supper and then we went to the 15 club which was a full day for me!

The Pedleys were due to sail on Wednesday but their boat was delayed and they didn't get off until Thursday. That day (Wednesday) I went down to see about boats and I have authorized our treasurer to make reservations for me on the Fulda sailing from Shanghai on July 21st. That will mean that I must leave here about the 16th of July and I'll plan on a couple of days in Shanghai. It is the North German Lloyd Line and my schedule is as follows: leave Hongkong July 26th; Manila 29th; Singapore Aug. 4; Belawan (Sumatra) 7th; Colombo 13th, reach Port Said Aug. 24th. We also touch at Foochow, China. As the 5th was AshWednesday, I took the girls down to the ~~St~~ Episcopal church for vespers.

In our largest department store here in Kobe they are having a garden party for the friendship dolls! They have a great space on the 6th floor given over to it. In the plot are two houses, one Japanese and one foreign, there are foreign and Japanese dolls on the porches, looking out of the windows, playing on the lawn, sitting on garden chairs etc. etc. with lots of birds. It is awfully attractive. The foreign dolls have been borrowed from various schools and they are all tagged. I recognized one doll which I saw when they arrived in Kobe the day I was there.

Yesterday I had just settled down with my teacher when a guest came. I have instructed our maid not to call me while my teacher is here but she is a kind hearted soul and hates to disappoint anyone so up she came and there was nothing to do but stop studying and I had only <u>just</u> begun! Mr. Ishii stayed until nearly three o'clock and from three on there was a party at Kobe College. While over there a girl was trying to take out a thumb tack and couldn't so I offered to do it and I got it out of the table but into me. How I ever did it I don't know but the first thing I knew it was sticking right into the nail and it was in so far it drew blood right thru the nail. It pained in the night but seems to be better today, altho it hurts when I have to use it on this machine!

We have had lots of rain lately but this afternoon is lovely. Lilian and I had dinner with some Methodist people and now it is almost time for supper. I wrote a long letter this afternoon to Miss Cozad who taught here for 30 years. I wish she could be here for the 50th anniversary but she is to write something for it. Her sister is very ill and she doesn't leave her at all.

I meant to say our cook came back after 5 days instead of two!

With love,

Eleanor

Please send this to Ethel when finished. Thanks and then a copy of this.

Glad to get Ed's & Jo's letters this a.m.

#174 PTW E.B.@ BWH

59 Nakayamate Dori, 6 Chome, Kobe,
Mar. 23, 1930.

Dear Folks:

It was fine to get Theodore's letter from Atlantic City. Of course I am always delighted to get letters from home but when one is off on business and attending meetings, it is too bad to have to bother to write letters. I am glad the meetings went off so well and I was interested in hearing that T. saw Mrs. David Lyon. I wonder if she were in Atlantic City for the conference or just for her own health.

By the way I had a letter from the Pyatts whom Theo., Pen, and Jane will remember. They asked to be remembered to those three and said they often thought of us.

Ethel's letter brings word that E.B. was to go to Berkeley again this winter. I wonder if this time it is in connection with his duties as president of the Nat'l Council. I know all his friends at the University will be glad to see him in California again.

My duties go right along. Just when I think a rest is coming extra work comes in. Last week I spent 5½ hours on camp accounts and must spend at least that amount again this week getting ready for our camp committee meeting which comes Saturday and Sunday, the 29th and 30th. I have been asked to prepare the report of all the work of our mission for mission meeting the end of May that means that all missionaries send their yearly reports to me, I extract the meat and try to give it forth to the mission body in Arima in 30 minutes! On our day of prayer at mission meeting I see my name is down as heading up a discussion group. Edith Husted said she'd write and say nothing doing as I wasn't asked and as I have other responsibilities but some one has to do it and all I can do is to try to do the best I can! I guess I'm too easy!

The cold weather continues inspite of the fact that spring is here with the blossoms and birds. I try to get out for at least an hour's walk three times a week. Friday was a holiday so Lilian Stewart and I hiked for two hours out on a country road where the holiday crowds didn't walk! As we were going along, we saw in the distance two little girls hurrying toward the street and we laughed saying they were coming out to get a good look at us! As we came up to them I spoke, as I usually do whether in the city or country! One of them beamed all over and passed me some flowers which she said she wanted to give me! She was too sweet for words -- bashful, not daring to come too near but wanting to give the flowers to me. After thanking her and telling her how pretty they were I thanked the second little girl who was standing further off and we moved on leaving them apparently very happy.

Well yesterday six of us went from this school to Kyoto to attend the wedding of one of our freshmen. She is a refreshing youngster who married a young minister to whom she has been engaged for over a year. She wore a foreign wedding dress and had a church wedding. She was so different from the other Japanese brides I've seen. Most of them don't dare smile -- or at least they look that way. They are so painted -- they don't call it paint but it is white stuff sort of like paint -- even their friends hardly know them! This girl just entered into the whole thing as if it were one grand lark. When she couldn't get in step going out of the church, she just beamed! After the wedding there was a lovely dinner to which we were invited. When she appeared for the dinner she was all in Japanese dress and looked charming. At dinner she ate as if she enjoyed it and I trust she will look as happy 25 years from now!

School closes on the 27th and reopens on the 8th of April. I expect to go to Maebashi for my vacation, leaving here the 31st and returning the 7th.

Much love,

Eleanor

#175

P.I.W. C.B.W. J.B.W.H.

59 Nakayamate Dori, 6 Chome, Kobe,
Japan, April 13, 1930.

Dear Folks:

Is it true that I haven't written since March 23rd? According to my diary that is so but I thought I had written again before going to Maebashi. Do forgive me. I mean to write every other week but I guess I was too busy to write before going to Maebashi. On March 24th two friends were up from Tottori so we went out to luncheon with them and that afternoon Edith Curtis came in for me to see if I could do anything for a stiffneck, then that evening a friend from Matsuyama came for a couple of days. The evening of the 25th one of our students felt like talking so she came in and stayed until after ten! Wednesday morning before breakfast a cable came telling of Dr. Pedley's death. This week a letter came telling some of the details. We are all so happy to think that he was well -- that is well for him -- on the boat and that he was sick only about an hour. He had reached Claremont, had visited with some of his friends there and died just after midnight, having been there about nine hours. Of course it was hard for Mrs. Pedley not to have her children with her but she was surrounded by loving friends and one daughter got a telephone message thru to her mother the morning that Dr. Pedley died. It is sad for us younger missionaries to have the older ones dropping out. By June 8th, three couples will have retired within less than a year. The Newells go in June right after Mission meeting. They at one time thought of going with me but Mrs. Newell can't stand the trip and also she is eager to get home to her sister who is flat on her back with heart trouble.

Clarence Gillett (Marion Magoun's husband) was down for a couple of days to attend some meetings and his spare time he spent here discussing all sorts of things. It was good to see him.

On March 27th the friends from Tottori and three relatives of theirs were here for luncheon and then I took them up to the zoo and got back in time for get ready for supper. We were entertaining our students who left at vacation time for their 6 months of practical work. School closed that day and Friday saw me rushing around on some errands and then settling down to writing up the financial report for the camp committee meeting the following day. As I was alone in the house, Edith and Lilian had gone to Tokyo and the Akanas to Kyoto, I got the report written up by three o'clock, then I took a nap for I was tired and in the evening I went to prayer meeting. When I returned I found our front door bell ringing and ringing. If people aren't careful they push the button in and it doesn't come out until it has another push. All three servants had gone off somewhere leaving the house alone. I didn't like it very well as I was to have to sleep alone in the house that night but nothig could be done about it then!

Saturday was spent in Camp committee meeting -- from 10 to 5:30. We all had luncheon here and had supper at a Chinese restaurant. One of the members spent that night with me and Sunday afternoon there was a Camp reunion for the girls. Everyone got off by 6:30 and then Kay Merrill of Matsuyama and I visited until eleven o'clock. I wanted her to spend the night with me as I was all alone again but she had promised to go back to Kobe College so she left and I went to bed getting up at 5:30 the next morning to get my packing done as I was leaving before nine for Maebashi. I spent Monday evening, or rather night, at the Y.W. in Tokyo and then went out to see Dr. Read in the morning. I knew I needed to see her and she asked if I could stay around Tokyo so as to come in again the next day. She suspected worms and gave me some orders about taking oil and salts during my vacation which I did and then called on her again on my way back. I was still having symptoms so after I got back here I took some poison and I hope I have no guests!

The winter term was a hard one in more ways than one and when vacation came I was content to relax. I took along some letters to answer but I did not feeling like writing so I didn't! The five days I was in Maebashi I slept, ate, walked and read and by the time I started home again I was feeling more like myself. I never saw the cherry blossoms so beautiful. Maebashi was just like fairyland. It is said that the air around Tokyo and north of there is different, certainly the cherries are much more lovely up that way. When I returned our own garden had broken forth. The lilac bushes are lovely.

While in Maebashi I interviewed a girl who wishes to enter this school and she is all set to enter a year from now. While passing thru Tokyo on my way back I spent a couple of hours trying to trace down a graduate who seemed to have left the straight and narrow path. She was out and I could not learn anything definite but apparently she is doing nothing more harmful than to teach children dancing. I also had been asked to call at the school for Christian workers in Tokyo. I found the foreign head there a very charming woman and if we must join with any school I feel that is the one for us. Many people feel very strongly that the school must be continued right here. I expect there will be some heated discussions over the question at Mission meeting.

When I reached home I found a friend in possession of my room but she left that morning. She and a friend were here for several days.

On the 8th our new school year opened with 12 new students. I have them in Mark, and all the students in cooking and gym two hours a week and I also have the beginners class in English. I had hoped to drop my cooking class which would mean that this term I would have the same number of hours as last term but Mr. Nagasaka asked me to continue the cooking so I had two more hours of regular work and my Sunday morning trips with the girls to different Sunday Schools. The girls are a fine bunch and with a long water voyage during which I can get well rested, I guess I'll be none the worse for the work this term.

On the 9th Anna Hackett came over and asked if I'd give a few words of welcome to Miss Crew who has come to Kobe College to teach for one year. I had never done such a thing before to my remembrance but I told her I'd do my best and that afternoon when we were all assembled I hope I made the girl feel that she was one of us. That evening I made some candy for Helen Cary's birthday. She is the youngster who comes from Otaru -- a journey of something like two days and three nights -- and she wasn't able to go home for Spring vacation so I thought some home-made candy would please her.

This past week I took my teachers at the Bline School some cake and they were tickled to pieces. Those who couldn't see wanted to know what it looked like etc. As I went up to the school some of the new students were coming away and it was heartbreaking to see them walking down an unfamiliar road. Some of them were laughing but some looked distressed.

Letters from home were welcome this past week. In about three months I suppose I'll be setting sail. Hilda's letter states that we are due in New York on October 20th! Think of getting to Athens, Rome, Venice etc!

Poor Taka! I suppose her father will be back with her within a week or ten days now. I expect being in the South where she didn't get any cold weather and working so hard both at her studies and at other things was too much for her. It may also be due partly to her love affair. I certainly hope she'll get all right soon after returning home.

Much love to each of you,

Elsie

#11 T.H. P.T.W

Kusaie, Caroline Islands
September 1, 1936

Dear Folks:

Sometimes I wonder if these girls can sleep better in a queer position. One Sunday I wanted to go out to the toilet about 2:30 and there was a girl fast asleep half way down the stairs! I stepped right over her but by the time I came back one of the girls had wakened her! Some one usually sleeps with her feet over the first step!

My nice thin dress which I had made in Japan (bought the cloth there) was admired by everyone but the first time it was washed it shrank so badly that I can't wear it. I had the hem let out but even so it is too short so I gave it to Miss Hoppin, a retired missionary in Lelu. She may be retired but she is on the go all the time. Now that the children go to schools where they are taught Japanese, they don't learn to read their own language so Miss Hoppin has about 15-20 children at her place every day to teach them how to read their own tongue. She has little tots 4 years old up to 12 year old children! Yesterday she had a holiday so the inhabitants could be removed from all heads! Her place must have smelt like a kerosene factory!

On August 11th Mr. McCall celebrated his birthday by declaring a half holiday so the boys could have a field day. They had a grand time with a baseball game, tug of war, races etc. The girls and teachers were there to look on and the boys kindly ran off two stunts for the girls. We didn't know whether to let the girls go in for the races or not because sometimes they get silly and just lie down and laugh but we let them try and they did very well indeed. It rained a little but we were under cover and the boys didn't mind the rain! After the stunts we had supper on the beach and one boy who has a few hens here roasted one for Mr. McCall! I felt bum as a cold was coming on. A sore throat developed and for several days I didn't feel much like work. I spent my free time on the bed and on Saturday I stayed abed until supper time. I lived on liquids for a few days and my temperature dropped to below normal in the A.M. but came up to 99 during the day. I'm all right now.

I've had an unexpected week's vacation! On the 22nd (Saturday a week ago) I went to Lelu to meet the boat which was due from the Marshalls on the following Monday. When we reached there we learned that the ship would be in Sunday A.M. and sure enough it ploughed in about 8 A.M. I was over there to meet Rose who is to be a teacher here and she was to bring four girls with her. I had planned on writing a few letters on Sunday to send by that boat on Monday but I wrote no letters for not only Rose and her four girls appeared but Alexander (another teacher for this school) and his whole family: wife and three small children. Well there were no preparations made for them and you can imagine how I felt to have 10 people landed in on me on a Sunday morning and especially as it was raining hard! I took all the women folks to church leaving the boys and Alexander to get their baggage off and when we came home from church the baggage was stacked under the roof over what might be called the porch but there is nothing but coral stones for a floor. There were 10 hungry mouths to be fed and not a student in sight to get some rice cooked. I hunted around and found their kettle but couldn't find their rice so after waiting a little while I gave the folks the food which had been sent in for my dinner which wasn't very much for 10 but it was better than nothing and it would have been much too much for me. I waited for the boys until one o'clock and then I set out to hunt for them. I found them at the Baldwins' just having finished a Sunday dinner "on them". I told them to go home and cook some rice for the new comers and I was going home but Miss Baldwin had seen me and nothing would do but for me to go in and have dinner with them so in I went and had fish, breadfruit and bread all of which had been prepared the day before. I was hungry and it tasted good. Then I went home to find that some village people had sent in more food and that they were getting along nicely without rice! I moved my things upstairs. As it had rained all day it wasn't as hot as it otherwise would have been, right under a tin roof! Rose, the four girls and I slept up there and let the family have

the downstairs. I thought the kids might have to get up in the middle of the night and that downstairs would be more convenient! On Monday after we got them fed and we had had prayers with the boys, I took them to the police office to register them, then they were free to go to see their friends in the village. Several people sent in food and I bought some salmon for them but when I saw all the food they had I gave the salmon to some other folks who I thought needed it. It doesn't worry people here when they eat. On Monday they had luncheon after two o'clock! I told them they'd have to get off early the next morning because of the tide. I got up a little before six and the boys already had the rice cooking. The men who were going to take the 10 new comers over to Mwot arrived at 6:15. The baggage was put on the school canoe and the folks packed into the Baldwins' canoe and I wish you could have seen those two canoes! There was no room for me and besides someone had to stay behind and clean up the place and take care of the rest of the baggage which couldn't be gotten on the canoe. After the baggage was all packed and the people all aboard Alexander remembered that he wanted to buy a knife so he beat it off and the oarsmen were wild for the tide was getting bad. At last they got off but when they got over on this side of the island the water was so low they had to go outside the reef but fortunately they arrived safely and their baggage was not wet. Another boat was due on Thursday, Friday or Saturday so I decided to stay in Lelu and wait for that. I knew with 10 people arriving and no where but the school rooms for the family of five to live there would be no school and therefore I would not be needed. After the folks got off I settled down to my first meal since Sunday noon! I had a papaya, a small can of milk and puffed rice which Miss Hoppin had given me and two eggs. Now how was that for a breakfast? Believe me it tasted good! After I was filled up I had my devotions in peace by myself! Then Miss Hoppin came over with two little children to see if I didn't want some help so the children and I got most of the baggage which had been left into the house, and cleaned up the place and by noon everything was in good order again. I then got luncheon and took a nap and went to call on the Japanese doctor's wife. She is a pleasant little soul and I enjoyed them both. She wanted to study English and even tho I was not to be there but a few days she said she'd come over every day if it were O.K. with me. She came every morning and stayed from 10-12 but we didn't spend all that time in studying English! I thought I was going to have lots of time to myself but no such a thing, there was someone with me almost all the time! The Baldwins sent over a loaf of delicious bread, a bunch of grand bananas and some grand oranges, the queen sent breadfruit all cooked twice and some papaya, the pastor brought me some fish all cooked twice, breadfruit and bananas. Really people were too good to me. The policeman's wife had given me some sweet potatoes, eggplant and cucumbers so at noon I had sweet potatoes, cucumbers and fried eggplant and fried bananas. It was swell. I had one noon meal with the Baldwins and dinner one night with the doctor and his wife. When Miss Hoppin found I was to be alone nights she asked if I'd like to have some one come and sleep with me. I laughingly said to the 5-year old boy with her "Would you like to come and keep me company?" At which he grinned a big broad grin which showed all the black stubs left in the front of his mouth and replied "Yes". So I said he could stay with me and his nine-year old sister had to come too so as to take him out in the night! Well I wish you would have seen those cute little tots, Ashbel and Telpe. Ashbel thought he had better bring Ham along so at night there was Ham on his little mat and next to him Ashbel and then Telpe. They were all on the floor and I was on a cot. Ham is Ashbel's doll, as you may have guessed! He named the doll himself! Before we went to bed I said we'd have prayers but there I was with two little faces staring at me and I unable to talk to them in their own language! We sang a hymn in Kusaien -- both children knew it perfectly -- then I had them repeat a part of the 23rd Psalm in English -- they knew that too -- and then I prayed in English. When I said "amen" Ashbel started in with the Lord's prayer in Kusaien! And those two little tots went thru withit without help for I don't yet know it! We then said "good-night" and went to bed! I gave them their breakfast in the A.M. and off they went!

They came over Wed. and Thursday evenings too and the little fellow would grin and talk to me in Kusaien and I'd grin and talk to him in English! I wish you could hear him repeat the books of the Bible. He has just picked them up hearing the other children learning them! The greatest is Ecclesiastes! Friday the school boys came and so the children didn't stay with me. They probably would have had I been home but that was the night I had dinner with the Yoshidas and I didn't get home until very late. It was after ten o'clock.

Just as I was finishing one sweet potato one day and was about to start on the second "Charlie" arrived with two baskets of papaya for me. I invited him to share my luncheon and so I gave him my second potato and I offered him some cucumber but he didn't care for that -- first time he had eaten any! He could talk a little English. He has no teeth across the front of his upper jaw but that doesn't keep him from smiling. He liked his potato! He ate a banana but said he had lots of them at home! He threw the peal right out on the path for me to pick up after he had gone! Well, we talked about a woman in town who is very ill. I had been asked to step in to see her -- thought it might cheer her up a little. I said I was afraid she might not pull thru and he said, "Is that so, suppose no heat no more." Well that was a new one to me in this hot country! When he left he wanted to thank me for his potato and he said, "Well, you very obliged". One day he took some fruit to the Baldwins, saw some bread which was just baked and he asked if he could buy a loaf! Of course there was nothing to do but to give it to him! He is a funny little man. The first time I saw him he rushed out into the street and greeted me like a long-lost friend but I had no idea as to who he was!

The ship which was expected in on Thursday, Friday or Saturday arrived Sunday about eleven o'clock! It brought lots of mail for me and believe me I was glad to get those letters. There was Hilda's note telling of the death of Fannie's mother. Poor Fannie, I wonder what she'll do. I expect she'll stay right on at that hotel. I'm glad she was going to keep her nurses for a little while. I'm sorry not to be in Boston so as to be with her. Mrs. Morrill of Somerset has also passed away. Her niece very kindly wrote me. Said the end was peaceful. Then word came of the passing of Dr. Barton.

But to go on with my doings. The pastor was ill on Wednesday evening so I spoke at prayer meeting and Sunday he asked me if I'd take the afternoon meeting. The subject for Sunday afternoon was "Light" so I spoke on "Ye are the light of the world." Brought to their remembrance that those words were said to the disciples and then followed the rest of the Sermon on the Mt. Brought out that their "good works" were to be done in order that men may glorify God. etc. etc. It rained hard Sunday afternoon and there weren't many people out. The pastor is a wise fellow. He has a big auditorium to accommodate all the Christians when they come for communion service but when just the people in Kusaie come, he moves his desk up 1/4 of the way. I guess he knows that people will always hug the back seats and so he had better be the one to move!

Monday morning I went down to see about the McCalls' freight and we got started back about 2 o'clock. We should have got off by one but the boys were slow loading the rest of Alexander's baggage and all the food which had been given me to bring back to the school: bananas and papaya. This is the season when the papaya are bearing well.

Altho I was busy in Lelu it was a good change and I feel better for having had it. It is grand having Rose here. She is splendid with the girls and I hope we are going to build into these girls some real character. I had asked if the boys and girls were all Christians and had been told that all but two girls were but I learned in Lelu that several of our students have not yet taken a stand for Christ. We need your prayers that we may be able to bring these folks into a vital relationship with Christ. With love,

Elsie